



Success Story of Kartar Singh: A Progressive Farmer from Punjab

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Kartar Singh comes from a hardworking farmer's family in Punjab. For decades, his family followed the wheat-paddy cycle. While yields were good, rising input costs, declining soil fertility, and falling groundwater made farming less sustainable. By 2015, he realized that farming in the old ways would not be profitable for the next generation.

Farmer Profile

Name: Kartar Singh

Age: 45 years

Land Holding: 15 acres

Family: Lives with wife, two children (one in college, one in school), and elderly parents.

Turning Point

In 2016, Kartar Singh attended training at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU). He learned about crop diversification, straw management, dairy integration, and water-saving techniques. Inspired, he began transforming his 15-acre farm.

Innovative Steps Taken

Crop Diversification

- Reduced paddy area from 12 acres → 7 acres.
- Started maize, pulses, and vegetables (tomato, capsicum, cauliflower) on 5 acres.
- Planted kinnow and guava orchards on 3 acres.
- Experimented with basmati rice for premium market rates.

Paddy Straw Management s Recycling

- Instead of burning straw, he uses:
 - ✓ Happy Seeder s Mulcher to sow wheat directly into paddy fields without burning residue.
 - ✓ Straw baler for collecting paddy straw, which he sells to dairy farms and biomass plants.
 - ✓ Uses some straw as bedding material in his own dairy unit.
- This reduced air pollution, improved soil organic carbon, and gave him an extra income source.

Organic s Sustainable Practices

- Set up a vermicompost unit to produce natural manure.
- Green manuring with dhaincha and sunhemp.
- Adopted bio-pesticides like neem oil

Dairy Farming Integration

- Maintains 12 cows and 3 buffaloes.
- Daily milk output: 110–120 liters, supplied to a cooperative society.

- Installed a biogas plant from cow dung.
- Biogas is used for cooking at home; slurry is used in fields as fertilizer.

Water s Energy Conservation

- Drip irrigation in kinnow orchard C vegetables.
- Laser land leveling in wheat and paddy fields.
- Saved nearly 30% water and reduced electricity use.

Marketing s Value Addition

- Direct selling of kinnow to juice companies and wholesale markets.
- Vegetables sold via Farmer Producer Organization (FPO).
- Earns extra from selling vermicompost and straw bales.

Results and Achievements

- **Income Growth:**
 - ✓ Earlier annual income: ₹6–7 lakh
 - ✓ Current annual income: ₹12–13 lakh (almost double)
- **Straw Recycling:**
 - ✓ Manages 100% of his paddy straw without burning.
 - ✓ Earns an additional ₹60,000–80,000 per year from selling straw bales.
- **Soil Health:** Organic matter improved from 0.4% to 0.6% in 5 years.
- **Employment:** Provides work to 4 local youth full-time and seasonal jobs to women laborers.
- **Recognition:**
 - ✓ Awarded Progressive Farmer by District Agriculture Department in 2022.
 - ✓ Invited as a resource farmer at Kisan Melas organized by PAU

Community Impact

- Inspired neighboring farmers to adopt Happy Seeder technology.
- Helped 15 farmers in his block to recycle paddy straw.
- Encourages young farmers to move towards organic inputs and diversification.

Message to Fellow Farmers

Kartar Singh says:

“Straw is not a waste, it is a resource. If we manage it properly, we can save our soil, environment, and also earn extra income. Farming is profitable when we combine tradition with new technology.”

Today, Kartar Singh is a role model farmer in Punjab who shows how 15 acres of land can be managed sustainably with diversification, dairy integration, and complete straw recycling.